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Sen. Hardiman revives push for robo-call accountability

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LANSING – Automated campaign phone calls, or "robo-calls," would have to be accounted for on campaign finance reports under legislation introduced today by Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood.

Hardiman's bill would require that any automated campaign calls that are an independent expenditure placed by an outside third party must be reported on the campaign finance reports.

"These groups must be held accountable for their calls," Hardiman said. "Because many of these calls are independent expenditures, the various candidates are unaware of the calls, and sometimes do not support their message and intent."

The senator introduced similar legislation in the previous legislative session but his bill did not make it through the legislative process. His new legislation, Senate Bill 207, has been referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee.

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